

## Fire Ant Quarantine Extended

Imported fire ant quarantine regulations have been extended to 17 new counties found infested this season, the U.S. Department of Agriculture reports.

"The imported fire ant continues to spread within and outside the infested area with the exception of those areas that are undergoing treatment with mirex," Leo G. K. Iverson, Deputy Administrator of USDA's Agricultural Research Service

said. "However, we can slow the long distance spread by restricting man's movement of things that carry the ants."

Restrictions will be placed on the movement of some products originating in these additional counties: Bradley and Lafayette in Arkansas; Collier in Florida; Washington in Georgia; Bolivar in Mississippi; Aiken, Edgefield, Georgetown, Kershaw, Marlboro, Sumter, and Williamsburg in South Carolina; and Collin, Harrison, Panola, Rush, and Shelby in Texas.

However, Dixie County, Fla., has been released from Federal regulation.

Articles under restricted movement in the fire ant quarantined area include soil, plants with roots, grass sod, hay and straw, logs and wood, and used soil-moving equipment. To move these items legally to uninfested areas, they must be inspected and certified free of fire ants by a State or Federal plant protection official.

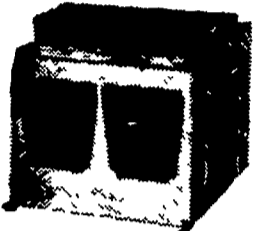
Imported fire ants are a threat to urban, as well as rural areas. Heavy infestations of the ants can make parks and recreation areas virtually unusable.

The ants often inflict painful stings on man and animals and their large mounds can damage farm machinery and make farming difficult.

Known infestations of fire ants occur in nine Southern States—Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Texas.



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## Pa. Banks Still Strong on Farm Loans

Pennsylvania banks have continued to provide farmers with more credit and other financial services than any other lenders in the state, according to the Pennsylvania Bankers Association.

At the beginning of 1971, nearly 89 per cent of the insured banks in Pennsylvania provided farmers with \$339 million in loans, which is three per cent above the previous year. This total consisted of \$173 million in production loans and \$166 million in farm mortgages.

Some 67 per cent of the production credit extended by lending institutions to Pennsylvania farmers came from banks.

Other sources of farmer credit included \$14 million in farm loans from life insurance companies; \$75 million from the federal land banks; \$74 million from production credit associations; and \$13 million in non-real estate loans, plus \$3 million in real estate loans, from the Farmers Home Administration.

Paul E. Renner, chairman of the PBA Agricultural Committee and vice president of the Gettysburg National Bank, said that "Bankers in Pennsylvania are aware of the large capital investments required in agriculture and are attempting to meet the credit demands of the state's farmers through effective lending programs."

The increased use of farm credit, according to Renner, has been accompanied by a substantial gain in the total assets of farm families. As a result, the equity position of farmers, contrary to public opinion, is being maintained at satisfactory levels.

Nationally, farm families have \$249 billion of their own funds

invested in agriculture. This represents 81 per cent of the total capital requirements of farmers.

Renner stressed the importance of farmers and bankers continuing to work closely together to improve farm financial arrangements. He reported that almost 9 of 10 insured banks throughout the country had agricultural loans outstanding.

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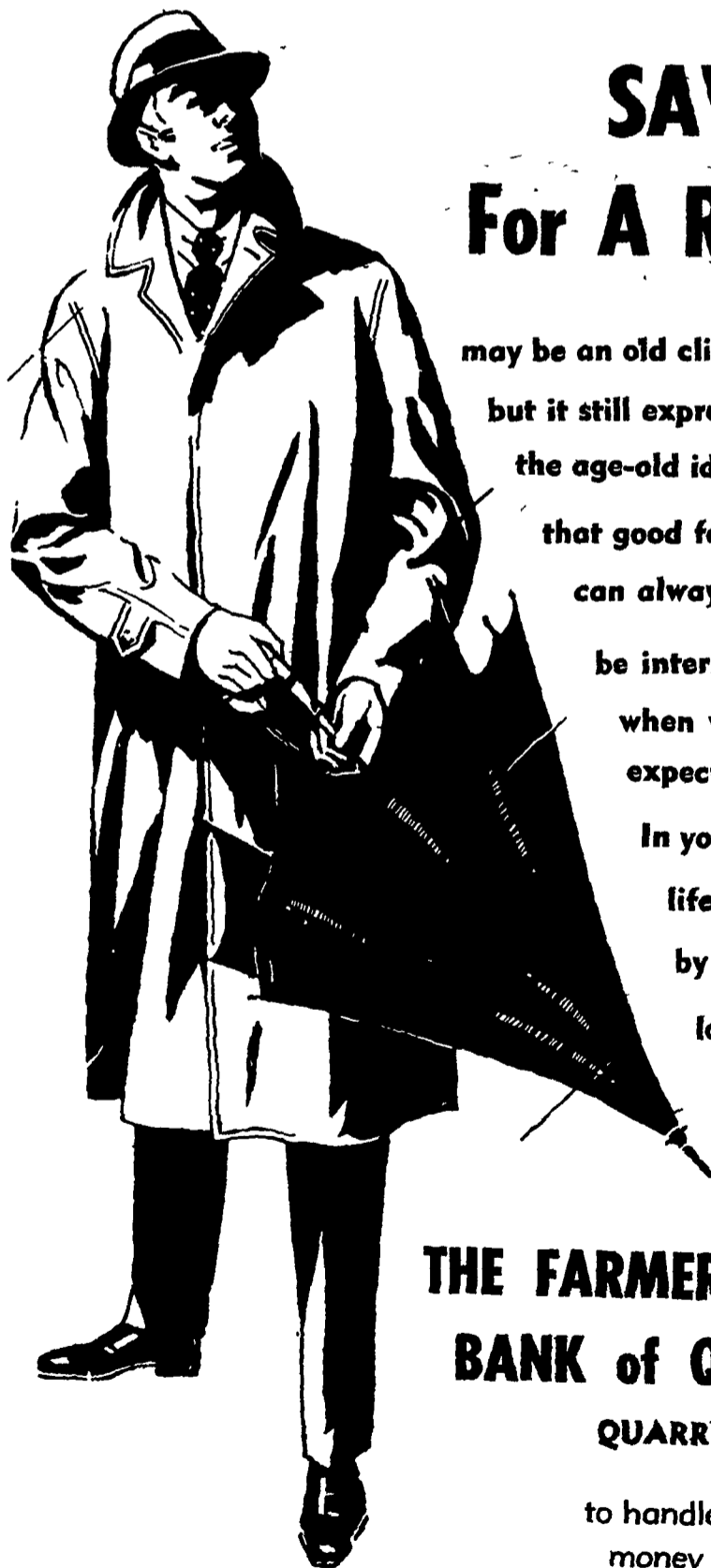
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